

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Published by Canadian
Moving Picture Digest
Company, Limited

259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto
New York Office
45 West 45th Street

Established in 1915 for
Exhibitors

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly
Telephone: Trinity 1481

RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 20, No. 20

TORONTO, CANADA

September 15th, 1928

Quebec Exhibitors' Great Fight



RAY LEWIS

PERHAPS for the first time in the history of Canada, or Motion Pictures, exhibitors have linked themselves into a fighting band to defeat a law passed by the Premier of a Province or State. This condition arose in the Province of Quebec, relative to the Taschereau enactment, which forbade children under sixteen from attending Motion Picture Theatres.

The agitation against the admittance of children to Motion Picture Theatres in the Province of Quebec gained momentum when the tragedy of the Palace Laurier fire precipitated an inquiry into the cause of the accident, subsequently developing into a Motion Picture trial, where matters entirely irrelevant to the issues involved were introduced, and where a fight against Motion Picture Theatres was waged by those who are its opponents.

The attack centralized itself around the admittance of children to theatres, and Sunday shows, the moral standard of the Industry; and although the presiding Judge gave the Industry "a clean bill of health," the fight against the admittance of children to Motion Pictures continued with the Premier of the Province leading the attack and finally introducing his bill. The Sunday Show decision is still in abeyance.

Under ordinary, or even extraordinary circumstances, the exhibitors would have submitted their heads to this yoke had they not sensed that the public and the press recognized the trespass on personal liberty which this bill enacted.

Throughout the Province of Quebec, especially noticeable in the rural districts, parents and exhibitors ignored the Taschereau Bill, until the prosecutions were commenced, then legally well-advised, the theatre owners, with public sympathy behind them, united to test the constitutionality of the Forbidding Law.

The decision by Justice Weir, which stops the prosecution of theatre owners admitting children under sixteen to their theatres, until the law is tested as to its constitutional value, is undeniably a victory for Quebec theatre owners; and the Industry throughout Canada is proud of the courage and the wisdom which these theatre owners and exhibitors displayed in the matter.

Incidentally, if it is unlawful for children under sixteen to be admitted to theatres in the Province of Quebec, it must equally be unlawful for the parents of such children to bring their children to a theatre, the parents acting in the position of accessory to the breaking of the law; and if exhibitors are to have charges laid against them, should not the parents of children be served in the same degree?

It would be of interest to test out a parent's rights in this matter. So far no parents have been served with a notice for aiding in the breaking of the alleged law.

It is reported that Premier Taschereau will continue to serve notices of prosecution despite the fact that it will cover a period of nearly two years before the validity of the law can be tested.

When one is having a fight, it might as well be a good one, and if the parents cannot be prosecuted for breaking the law, does this not reveal another weak link in the chain of evidence against theatre owners, should the law be upheld and the prosecutions introduced?

Meanwhile, the victory achieved by the theatre owners of Quebec establishes a morale in this Industry much needed. Reformers and Legislators have been too inclined to bulldoze this Industry into accepting any law which they conceived as advisable.

A few more defensive measures similar to the one introduced in Quebec, for the rights, protection and development of an Industry of international importance and magnitude will give Motion Pictures a Better Name in the World of Art, Finance and Industries.

Ray Lewis

Ray Presents

WE HAVE all heard of Heintz and his 57 varieties of pickles. Heintz advertised the 57 extensively; and made his fortune keeping the public "pickled."

Some song-writer conceived the idea of composing a song, albeit not a sonnet, to Heintz, which had these inviting lines, "Heintz, Heintz, what's the matter mit Heintz? Heintz is wobbling down the street, what's the matter mit Heintz's feet?" and carried on to the last line, which read, "Heintz is pickled again."

HEINTZ neither saw the advertising value, nor the humour, and subsequently purchased the copyright, it was said. When I saw our Industry's "37 Don'ts," I immediately thought of Heintz and concluded that we "were pickled again."

A few years ago there was a conference between the producers in our Industry and Canon Chase, whereby the reverend gentleman inveigled the Industry into giving him a statement containing all the evils which had ever existed since the Serpent walked into the Garden of Eden.

THERE were more than 37 then, everything from rape to murder, no rule of the Borgias could have revealed more crime than our Industry's list of possible subjects and action which it could introduce into Motion Pictures; and which it intended should stay out.

Someone very evidently put something over on the Industry, for the list furnished plenty of adverse agitation against the Industry, censorship, and set into motion the wheels of legislation. Everybody acknowledged that it was a grievous error to have made such a statement.

BUT evidently the Industry has a short memory, for again we go into headline with a misdemeanor sheet containing 37 varieties of evils. Twenty-four producers at the coast subscribe to a list which contains eleven positives which must be avoided and twenty-six which are subject to further consideration.

Meetings of this kind and decisions of this kind should not get into the press. They furnish food for agitation and reverse legislation, they are bad publicity for the Industry; and it is costing thousands of dollars weekly to watch legislation in "the think-

ing" and in "the making" as it refers to us.

I HAVE not yet heard of a group of artists, writers, of a group of financiers, or industrial magnates assembling to discuss for publication a list of misdemeanors they are capable of inculcating into their enterprise. The laws of the country endeavour to make all expression "fool-proof," through the application of the Ten Commandments to man-made laws, why then should our producers waste their brain-stuff conceiving a list of 37 varieties of evils to eliminate, when the brain could be much better exercised, plus the time, by presenting discussions of present progressive moves in Motion Pictures, subject matter for the press which would be worth "the price of admission" to the Industry from a publicity angle?

There are enough interested persons searching for our evils, positive and contemplative without the Industry handing but a reference sheet.

ABOUT a week ago the press had Warner Bros. out of the Industry, bought out by Adolph Zukor for \$20,000,000, a story which the Warner Bros. branded as mere rumour, unfounded, and which they paid to deny.

To-day we herald an announcement which makes the Warner Bros. very much "it" in our Industry, in control of the much-discussed, much angled for Stanley list of theatres; and heading, it is further reported, for the Keith-Albee-Orpheum chain of theatres.

IT IS TO BE expected that the Vitaphone interests would seek to control a sufficient list of theatres to put their patents over; and through this list get representation, and force further sales through an exchange working affiliation. It is a case of "put it over," or leave it; and the moguls probably believe in giving "Talkies" a real run for their money, and in getting the money if it is to be had themselves.

I would like to see our showmen retain the control of our theatres and our Industry. It is an enviable position for them; and keeps the Industry much more of an enterprise of entertainment than a speculative foot-ball for the stock exchange.

The press is revealing the changed times. Motion picture shares are getting the space, and editorially the "talkies" for the same result, selling the public shares, not entertainment. We see very little space reserved for Motion Pictures. When the public ceases to be interested in our play-ers, in our directors, in Motion Pic-

tures as entertainment, the shares will join the other shares over which one gains experience. Even from a standpoint of Financial Gambling, losing the Entertainment value is a destructive policy; and in presenting, or selling the Talking accessories to the public, keep in mind that the human element is the radium of life. The public has always been a hero-worshipper and even conceives its God in the Image of Man. Keep our Industry Human!

"TRIUMPH OF THE RAT" GAUMONT BRITISH CORP. FIRST PICTURE

The Gaumont British Corporation of Canada, Limited, announces its first picture, which is none other than "The Triumph of the Rat," featuring Ivor Novello and Isabel Jeans. Graham Cutts directed this production. This photoplay is probably one of the most spectacular to come from a British producer so far. Gainsborough Pictures, who are responsible for this film, spared no expense in the making. Ivor Novello has been referred to by the Boston Globe as being the most eligible candidate for the wearing of the Valentino mantle. Pete Harrison, in one of his comments, said Mr. Novello is a "he-man," but to many the information conveyed by Mr. Ed. H. Jacobs in the Cleveland News will prove more than interesting: "Remember how we used to all join in and sing 'Keep the home fires burning' through the war? Well, the fellow who wrote that song is nobody else but Ivor Novello, the spine-shiver creator of the Apache character of the Rat."

Broadway Playwrights Signed by M-G-M

Two of Broadway's best-known playwrights, Willard Mack and John Howard Lawson, were last week placed under contract by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Mack believes that there will be no large-scale importation of stage stars to Hollywood but that the Industry will adapt itself to changing conditions and by voice tests, instruction classes, and improvement of technical equipment fit the present crop of stars for talking films, besides picking up some entirely new talent.

Lawson is considered one of the leading exponents of the new "expressionistic" school of playwrighting. His play, "Processional," drew many enthusiastic notices during its run on Broadway, and his other produced pieces include "Loud Speaker" and "Nirvana." He will join the M-G-M scenario department.

Warner Bros. Get Stanley Control Involves Fifty Millions

Second Merger To Combine Keith-Albee-Orpheum Interests.

Warner Bros. Pictures Inc., have acquired the control of the Stanley Company of America, which owns about two hundred and fifty first-run houses in the Eastern States and is affiliated with approximately three thousand other theatres through the control of First National Pictures.

Keith Albee Orpheum Perhaps.

This control appears to be the forerunner of a second merger involving the acquisition of the Keith-Albee-Orpheum interests which makes the new combine represent a hundred million dollar line-up if this second tie-up goes through.

Stock Purchase of Stanley.

For some time the press has been lining up the battle for control of Stanley, most of the companies being mentioned as competing for the acquisition of this stronghold; and Warners during all the rumours were reported as having sold out to Adolph Zukor. Now it develops that Warners have placed themselves shoulder to shoulder with the "big fellows" of our industry, having secured the Stanley control by a stock purchase.

Minority Shareholders Get Offer.

Warner Bros. announce that they will offer each holder of the common stock of the Stanley Company for

eighty per cent of his holdings, one share of a new preferred stock convertible for two years into Warner Brothers Pictures Inc., common stock, in the ratio of \$55 per share for the Stanley stock and \$125 per share for the Warner Bros. common stock plus one-tenth of a share of Warner Brothers Pictures Inc., common stock. For the remaining 20 per cent of the holdings of each stockholder of the Stanley Company, Warner Bros. is to pay \$57.50 per share in cash. The offer is subject to a meeting of the stockholders of the Warner Bros. Pictures Inc., to be called.

Stockholders Agree.

The holders of large slices of Stanley stock are agreeable to the offer as transmitted, with a recommendation from the Stanley Board that the offer be accepted. The date of acceptance to be announced later.

Warner Class A Called.

Warner Bros. Pictures Inc., Class A stock has been called for redemption on December 1st, 1928.

Wild Stanley Speculation Follows.

Announcement of the merger caused Stanley to become a feature on the market. The wildest speculation followed and at the opening a block of 30,000 shares changed hands at 69¾,

making an advance of over ten points. The issue finally closed with a net gain on the day, following profit taking, of 4¾ points.

Keith-Albee-Orpheum.

Rumours that the Keith-Albee-Orpheum circuit would also become a part of the Warner merger sent this stock up seven points in spectacular bidding.

MORNING SHOW, PALACE, MONTREAL, GATHERING DOUGHSKY FOR ROTSKY

A morning show has proved a permanent success at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, where George Rotsky holds the reins of office. This bargain performance, the admission for which is 25 cents, opens at 11 a.m. The Palace is in the heart of the retail shopping section of Montreal and many shoppers have been attending. Matters are facilitated through the presentation of sound pictures, no house orchestra being required.

Max Reinhardt To Direct Lillian Gish For United

Max Reinhardt, of "The Miracle" fame, plus international fame, rightfully obtained, as a genius of dramatic production, will direct Lillian Gish in a "sound film" for United Artists.

Announcing the New Model H Motiograph DeLuxe Projector

Entirely New Projector Principle.

Front Shutter entirely eliminated.

Heat on the Film reduced 62½%.

Danger of aperture fires practically gone.

Focus as perfect as the lens will allow.

20% increase in illumination.

Every possible improvement taken care of.

Casting for fitting Movietone apparatus.

You should know about this marvellous new projector. It will be the next you will buy. Full description on receipt of a post card.

THE COLEMAN ELECTRIC Co. - 258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

Canada's Leading Theatre Supply House

Gaumont British Corporation of Canada LIMITED

Presents

"The Triumph of the Rat"

Featuring

Ivor Novello

Directed by Graham Cutts.

A Gainsborough Picture

"The Triumph of the Rat" is a Master Piece, and is the best picture so far in which Novello has appeared. Contrasting the smart society atmosphere of Paris with the squalor of Montmartre. The action shifts from scenes of magnificence to the depths of the underworld.

COMING

The Physician

Carry On

Shooting Stars

One of the Best

Hindle Wakes

Rolling Road

What Money Can Buy

Rough Seas

Mlle. Parley-Voo

The Lodger

Etc. Etc.

Blighty

The Glad Eye

Sailors Don't Care

Palais De Danse

Smashing Through

3 Pictures to be Made in Canada

IN ALL 24 BRITISH PICTURES

FOR THE SEASON 1928-1929

Empire Films for the Empire

Distribution Through

Canadian Universal Film Company Limited

Toronto - Montreal - St. John - Winnipeg - Calgary - Vancouver

Jules Patenaude Issues Statement On Quebec Theatre Owners Position

Head of Quebec Theatre Owners' Association Talks On Children's Attendance Controversy.

Jules Patenaude, President of the Quebec Theatre and Cinema Owners Association, made a public statement in respect to the Quebec law which prohibits the attendance of children to Motion Picture Theatres, and which law was subsequently judged illegal by Justice Weir. Monsieur Patenaude sets forth an argument that Quebec provincially has no jurisdiction which can make such a law constitutional for the province, the British North American Act states that all criminal legislation must be passed by the Dominion Parliament. Monsieur Patenaude states:

"I have been asked if our Association has anything to do with the writ of prohibition taken by Mr. Jules Duhamel, of the 'Passe Temps,' and Mr. Recknes, of the 'Theatre Denis,' against the theatre law, and if we have any declaration to make regarding this law.

"I have no hesitation in declaring that this writ of prohibition has been taken with the consent and concurrence of the Province of Quebec Theatre and Cinema Owners Association.

"We object to the law because it is unconstitutional. Our Association has no desire whatever, as it has been rumoured, to incite the people to revolt against the laws. We understand that the authorities are seeking to enforce the laws, but on the other hand, we desire to submit to the courts, as is our right, the legality of the Moving Picture Law.

"According to the legal opinion that we have adopted, the Legislature of the Province of Quebec would not have the right to pass laws preventing people, even children, from going to motion picture theatres.

"This law which was passed at the last session has for its apparent purpose the protection of the good morals, and particularly with regard to children.

"Theatre owners find it entirely legitimate that good morals be protected in this province, and that the theatres, those showing moving pictures as well as other shows, should be properly censored and controlled with regard to public morals, but the question is to define in whom should this authority be assigned. Is it with the Federal Parliament or is it with the Provincial Legislature?

"The Act of British North America which created the Canadian Confederation, has decreed that the Federal Parliament alone shall have the right to make criminal laws. All the

laws which have bearing on good morals are laws of criminal nature, and, consequently, it is the duty of the Federal Parliament alone to make laws deciding what shall be permitted and what shall not be permitted with regard to public morals.

"When the Fathers of the Confederation decided the question, they exercised good judgment. It is necessary that morals be controlled, that criminal offences be denounced and punished in this country, but it is also necessary that there be only one authority in the country on the subject. It is not reasonable that an act should be declared criminal in the Province of Quebec and be permitted in Ontario or elsewhere or vice versa. It is not fair that in one part of the country one is required to be puritanical and that in another part of the country public customs allow considerable freedom. There should be one criminal law for the whole country.

"The Motion Picture Industry today is an amusement, which has developed in every country. It is a part of modern civilization and it would not be simple to cause it to disappear. Modern society will not easily admit that it can be prevented from attending moving picture theatres for recreation, provided that these are controlled sufficiently to prevent injury to the public morals, and in this Province it is not only the proprietors of moving picture theatres who are interested in the question, but the people themselves are justified to wonder why in certain provinces parents have the right to take their children to see moving pictures while in the Province of Quebec this is considered criminal, even though the pictures are entirely suitable. It is not evil which is forbidden, it is the amusement itself, even if nothing reprehensible is contained therein.

"Such a state of affairs is quite unreasonable, and it is for that account that proprietors of theatres, in accord with the opinion of the people, address themselves to the Superior Court to break this law and obtain a decision to the effect that it is the Federal Parliament only which controls public morals in this country.

"For those who believe that we are neither serious nor sincere, we add that similar questions have already come before the Courts. The Province of Ontario has already passed a law to prohibit certain activities on Sunday, and the Privy Council in England has set aside this law because

it was in the nature of a criminal law, and authority to legislate on the subject appertains to the Federal Parliament only.

"The Legislature of Quebec has already passed a law prohibiting theatrical representations on Sunday, but the Supreme Court of Canada has set aside this law for the same reason, that it was of a criminal nature and that authority in such matters belongs to the Federal Parliament only.

"As can be seen, the proprietors of theatres are not organizing a revolution. They are simply appealing to the Superior Courts, as is their privilege, to obtain justice, an equal justice for all the citizens in Canada."

Calgary's "Destiny" Film Is Now Completed

Neal Hart's Canadian Feature To Be Shown in Calgary In September.

"Destiny," Calgary's Motion Picture, directed by Neal Hart for the British Canadian Pictures Limited, has been completed; and will be screened in Calgary during this month for the local directors before it is taken to Great Britain by William Steiner of New York, who has contracted to distribute this company's features over a period of five years.

Although detailed arrangements have not been completed, John I. McFarland, secretary-treasurer of the company, stated that it is understood that the picture will be released in Calgary for public presentation before it is taken overseas.

In his letter telling of the success of the picture from a photographic viewpoint, Mr. Hart stated that it had met with the approval of those who watched the test screening in Hollywood. "I think we have made a picture of which Calgary will be proud and which will do a great deal of good for Calgary and Alberta," he said.

Theatre Sold, Swift Current, F. J. Lundholm, Present Owner

The Lyric Theatre, Swift Current, Sask., built in 1912 by J. Grinder and costing \$50,000, has been sold to F. J. Lundholm, who for several years has been its manager. The seating capacity is seven hundred and fifty and the building, which is a two-story one, is modern in every detail.

Mrs. Chaplin Dead

Mrs. Hannah Chaplin, mother of Charles Chaplin, passed away in Glendale, California, recently. Mr. Chaplin was with his mother at the time of her death.

Our Fast Growing List of New Customers is Proof That Our Goods and Prices are Right

We are direct factory representatives for Simplex and Powers Projectors, Strong and Peerless 'Reflecting Arcs, Roth Transformers, Silversheet Tearproof Screens, Newman Ticket Choppers, Pyrene Fire Extinguishers Panic Bolts, in fact, everything needed in a theatre. Mail Orders filled on day received.

Canadian Theatre & Electrical Supplies Ltd.
61 ALBERT ST. Phone AD. 4837 TORONTO

Invitations to M.P.T.O.A. Convention Mailed

Invitations to the M. P. T. O. A. Convention have been sent out by Mr. J. C. Brady and his committee. These cards have been mailed to exhibitors and theatre owners in the Province of Ontario; and to the various leading exhibitors in the other provinces.

Any exhibitor desiring to attend the convention can secure an invitation card by writing the secretary, Miss Laura Elston, 54 Close Ave., Toronto, 3, Ont. Exhibitors receiving their invitations will please notify Miss Elston as to their acceptance, it being necessary to make the proper arrangements for their entertainment.

First Sound Program Big At Palace, Montreal

The first presentation of a sound picture program in Canada, at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, under the direction of Manager George T. Rotsky, during the week of September 1, was literally the "talk" of Montreal. The attendance was so heavy that Manager Rotsky carried over the whole program for a second week.

The initial program was as follows: "Street Angel," Fox Movietone; Raquel Meller in "Corpus Christi," Robert Benchley in "The Treasurer's Report," and Nina Tarasova in "The Hut," three movietone short subjects, and the Fox Movietone News. This show was presented continuously from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. for the 14 days.

R. S. RODDICK MGR. CAPITOL, LONDON, ONT.

The successor of the late Thomas Logan as manager of the Capitol Theatre, London, Ontario, is R. S. Roddick, formerly assistant manager. Mr. Logan had been in charge of the London Capitol for seven years and had been prominently identified with the theatre business in that city for 20 years or more.

Famous Asks For Bridge For Theatre Entrance

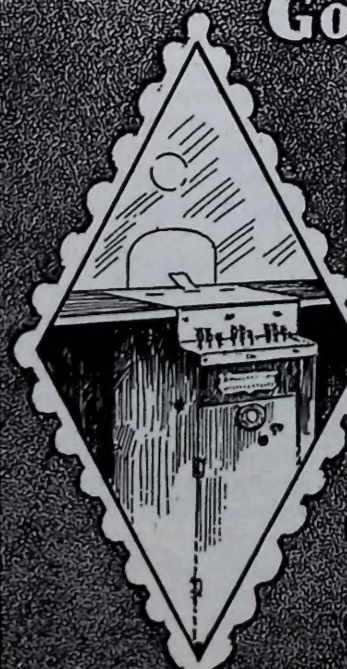
Famous Players Canadian Corporation approached the Civic Works Committee for permission to construct a bridge over the lane running north of Gerrard Street, west of Yonge Street. The bridge is for the purpose of providing a Yonge Street entrance to 'Famous' new theatre, which will be constructed south of the new T. Eaton Co. building.

The Commission recommended that permission be granted, providing the corporation agreed to remove the bridge on a six months' notice, as the bridge would be built over city property. Work on the new theatre building will commence when the steel work on the new T. Eaton Company building at Yonge and College Streets, has reached the ground level. \$1,500,000 will be expended on the new theatre and a five-storey office building. The Commissioner of Works recommended that the Famous be permitted to construct the bridge, the recommendation was sent to the Board of Control.

Nat Rothstein Likes Europe Back in November

Nat Rothstein, who sailed for Europe on the "Paris," will return to New York in November. Meanwhile, Nat says, "It's great over here, but not greater than where I came from." After all, Nat, there's no place quite like New York after all.

The BASIS of Good Box Office Management



Make the **GOLD SEAL
TICKET REGISTER**
the backbone of your
Box Office System

16TH YEAR OF FAITHFUL SERVICE
STANDARD EQUIPMENT USED
BY LEADING CIRCUITS THE
WORLD OVER.

SEND FOR CIRCULARS AND PRICES

AUTOMATIC TICKET REGISTER CORPORATION

Manufacturers of CONSUMABLES and TICKETS that FILE
123 SEVENTH AVE. NEW YORK CITY
GOLD SEAL USED WHEREVER TICKETS ARE SOLD

TORONTO THEATRES

UPTOWN — Nelson Shea, Manager — "Four Walls" — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer — John Gilbert and Joan Crawford — Class B plus. William Nigh has directed this adaptation of the play by George Abbott and Dana Burnet admirably, steering clear of the Shoals of Preachment; and giving the development a humanly possible touch, which makes the action of the players akin to nature. "Four Walls," in which "Benny" discovers a sufficient light to reveal that the only walls of obstruction are the walls of the mind. "Four Walls" are the walls of a prison where "Benny" finds himself after a murderous assault upon another member of the gang, called "Duke Roma." The girl, "Frieda," as in the case of most gangs, proves the undoing of several of these underworlders, for later on "Monk," another member of this class of Get-Rich-Quick, goes to his death when he follows "Frieda" and "Benny" to the roof of a dance hall, where "Monk" has "thrown a party" and announced his coming marriage to "Frieda." "Frieda," before "Benny's" imprisonment, was his girl, but four years and four prison walls for "Benny" are difficult propositions for a girl of "Frieda's" type to see through; and although "Frieda" still loves "Benny," "Monk" becomes a good substitute and provider, for "Frieda" looks as if Life is taking care of her nicely when "Benny" emerges into public life again. "Benny," however, has discovered that things grow straight even behind "Four Walls," planting a few seeds teaches "Benny" this truth; and "Frieda" and the gang have no further charm for "Benny," until he discovers that the idea has not absorbed him as strongly as the idea to hold on to "Frieda." It is "Frieda" that reveals to "Benny" that his straight idea is the only real idea he ever had; and that he and she must stick to it. There is plenty of action and plenty of moral. John Gilbert, as "Benny," does excellent work; and has a great deal of restraint and composure about him which spells for real art. Joan Crawford as "Frieda" is a real "gal," a beauty whose face can express what she feels; and who has the power, dramatic power to feel, which is as important. Carmel Myers as the "good girl," is an excellent type and does her work with such sincerity that she uplifts this kind of a role from the usual groove; and makes "Bertha" a character. Vera Gordon portrays "Benny's" mother.

A Yiddish mother, you know what that means. She has a personality and magnetism which appeals to all races and classes; and the introduction of the Hebraic ceremonies, those over which she officiated; and those which gave the picture its environment, were as interesting as they were picturesque. There are no fireworks in "Four Walls," but it is an excellent picture, extremely well-done and most commendable.

TIVOLI — Tom Daley, Manager — "The First Kiss" — Gary Cooper and Fay Wray — Paramount — Class B. Rowland V. Lee directed this entertaining picture from the story "Four Brothers." Entertainment covers the idea, contained in a plot which reveals one brother, through the love of a girl, intent on raising the social status of his family, and even sacrifices his honour, becoming a thief to keep three brothers in college. "The Talbots" are the sons of a drunken father, who when he dies, are bullied into becoming gentlemen, because "Mulligan," the second son, aspires to win Anna Lee, a society flapper. Maryland is the locale; and the settings which centralize around its eastern shore, where oyster fishing is lucrative, eliminates the necessity for any big settings, but tends to present plenty of pictorial exteriors. The court scene, where the brothers plead for the brother, who regenerated them; and where the girl also shows the stuff real girls are made of, is the principal big scene. It has some strong stuff in it which builds up an otherwise evenly moving story. Gary Cooper, as "Mulligan," makes the picture as much as the picture makes him. Fay Wray, as Anna Lee, is sympathetic, while the rest of the cast carries on with the roles assigned them.

SHEA'S — J. C. Appell, Manager — "Sawdust Paradise" — Paramount — Esther Ralston and Herbert Bosworth — Class B. The story somewhat reminds me of a story by a well-known modern writer, who started something when he uncovered the "Main Street of Evangelism" as he saw it. In that story the "female of the species" handles her meetings like a showman; and some wondered if the author had not worked out the idea after the romance of Carmel, not Carmen, in which a modern Helen of Troy was alleged to be involved. Esther Ralston is the carnival lady who does everything from a "couch" to preachment, in order to win the public's confidence and self-

express herself in the Valley of Love. Those who have visited London, England, and wandered around the entrance gates to Hyde Park will know that it is possible for two meetings of different kinds to go on at the same time. One preaching Capital, one Labour, the other "Salvation," etc., etc. The story of "Sawdust Paradise" concerns two opposing factors for the public's entertainment and money, one a carnival and the other an evangelist. The evangelist avenges himself, as in "Rain," by persecuting "Hallie," the queen of the carnival, who is convicted and sentenced to ninety days, but paroled under the evangelist's care with the result that she runs a better show for him than she did for the carnival; and finds that religion as an entertainment institution is a better box-office bet than "moving muscles" to make the mob laugh. Esther Ralston does real work as "Hallie," and together with Hobart Bosworth, as "Isaiah," the evangelist, carries the acting honours of the picture.

LOEW'S — Jules Bernstein, Manager. "The Cardboard Lover" — Marion Davies and Nils Astor — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer — Class A comedy. Adapted from the play of the same name, by Jacques Duval, this picture will go over "with a howl," not because of its original plot, but because of its laughing potentialities and possibilities. Laugh after laugh follows the antics of Marion Davies, who appears to be able to handle anything in the comedy line from broad farce to the realm of the dainty comedienne. In "The Cardboard Lover" Miss Davies is chiefly concerned in delivering broad farce, some nearly as broad as the Chaplin stunts of his earliest fame; and equally as well delivered. An autograph hobby sends a college girl to Europe in quest of the autographs of famous people. A tennis champion proves her Waterloo in the Battle of Love; and our heroine gives battle to the French "Simone," who is also impressed by the figure and handiwork of our racquet hero. However, our heroine gets her autograph and her man, even though she has to flop into a lake to create an impression. Jetta Goudal is the lady who follows "the path of least resistance" as "Simone." She proves an excellent contrasting foil for Miss Davies. Nils Astor has the face and figure for a tennis champion; and generally looks good enough to make a fuss over. The play registered a success, and the screen adaptation will keep the audience in a happy mood; and provide the right kind of publicity to keep the house filled.

Round About the Studios

"The Cop," Pathe's latest feature starring William Boyd, has scored heavily as the big attraction opening Greater Movie Season at the Hillstreet Theatre in Los Angeles. Jacqueline Logan plays opposite Boyd in this Donald Crisp production.

Personal appearances of Pathe players featured the opening performance. Robert Armstrong, who plays Scarface Marcas in "The Cop," was master of ceremonies. With his friend James Gleason, who wrote Armstrong's stage success "Is Zat So?" Bob put on a screamingly funny five-minute sketch, after introducing the players in the picture.

Harry D. Buckley, Vice-President of United Artists Corporation, left New York Friday, September 6th, for a three weeks' visit to the company's studios in Hollywood and a tour of western exchanges.

Lucien Hubbard will direct "The Mysterious Island," on which production will start at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio within the next ten days.

Under-water scenes for this picture, which is an adaptation of Jules Verne's imaginative story, have already been made off the Bahama Islands by a special camera expedition.

The cast so far assembled for the film includes James Murray, Jacqueline Gadsdon, Lionel Barrymore, Snitz Edwards and Montague Love.

Commander Richard E. Byrd has selected Monte Blue's recent Warner Bros. picture, "Across the Atlantic," as one of the features which he will take with him as film entertainment on his expedition to the South Pole. "Across the Atlantic," which Howard Bretherton directed, is the story of a trans-oceanic airplane flight and features Edna Murphy, Robert Ober and Burr McIntosh as chief support to Monte Blue.

J. Robert Rubin, vice-president and general counsel of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, arrived back from Europe last week on the Berengaria, accompanied by his wife and small son. The Rubins had been abroad about two months.



Conrad Nagel, playing opposite Greta Garbo, in "The Mysterious Lady" for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.



Fay Webb, featured player for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Lenore Coffee, noted scenarist, who did "The Volga Boatman" and other pictures for DeMille, has been engaged by M-G-M to do the continuity and adaptation of "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney," which will be made with a specially selected cast headed by Norma Shearer.

Lionel Barrymore, who is now playing a featured part in "Alias Jimmy Valentine" at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio, has signed a new long-term contract with that company. Barrymore has played a wide variety of character roles during the past year.

James Kirkwood, who recently returned to Hollywood after a stage tour in Europe, has been signed by Paramount for a role in Charles Rogers' second starring picture, "Just Twenty-One." On the legitimate stage Kirkwood's best known role was the lead in Channing Pollock's "The Fool." Before he went abroad he had been appearing in motion pictures. Besides Kirkwood, the Rogers cast now includes Mary Brian, Chester Conklin and William Austin. Richard Wallace will direct.

The "Show Boat" company, under the direction of Harry Pollard, has returned to Universal City from the location representing the Mississippi River. At Universal City, a cross section of Chicago of 1890 has been created for the scenes which will be taken during the next two weeks.

Mary Pickford will play the role of Norma Besant in a talking picture version of "Coquette," the play by Anne Bridgers and George Abbott; this will be Miss Pickford's next United Artists Picture. "Coquette" was first presented at the Maxine Elliott Theatre in New York on November 8, 1927, and it closes its New York run on September 14, 1928; then it goes on tour in the key cities of the country, while the film is being produced in Hollywood.

"Habeas Corpus" is the intriguing title of the latest Stan Laurel-Oliver Hardy comedy to be completed at the Hal Roach Studios for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. The fact that in this story they are a couple of night prowlers in a ghostly graveyard should furnish the key to the situation.

With the addition of Arnold Kent and Arthur Housman, the cast of Paramount's Emil Jannings starring vehicle, "Sins of the Fathers," has been completed. This cast, composed of Jannings, Ruth Chatterton, Barry Norton, Zasu Pitts, Matthew Betz, Jean Arthur, Jack Luden, Kent and Housman, brings together one of the most imposing arrays of talent ever assembled in Hollywood for one picture. Ludwig Berger is directing.

Edward Sloman has been assigned by Carl Laemmle to direct "The Bargain in the Kremlin," by Sir Philip Gibbs. Every effort is being made by Harry Pollard to complete Joseph Schildkraut's role in "Show Boat" so that Schildkraut can play the lead in this Russian story of a famous violinist. Schildkraut himself is an accomplished violinist. "The Bargain in the Kremlin" will be Movietone.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has acquired motion picture rights to "The Song Writer," the play by Crane Wilbur which is now scoring a great success at the 48th Street Theatre, New York City, with Georgie Price, ex-vaudeville headliner in the leading role.

While no announcement as to production plans has been made it is expected that the play will find a place on M-G-M's talking picture list for the coming season.

"The Song Writer" deals with the romance between a rising young star of Tin Pan Alley and a society girl. Since popular songs are several times interspersed in the script the piece should be especially suitable for sound.



Monte Blue, one of Warner's popular stars.